



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
2D AEROSPACE MEDICINE SQUADRON (AFGSC)  
BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE LOUISIANA

8 October 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL BARKSDALE AFB PERSONNEL

FROM: 2 AMDS/SGPB

SUBJECT: Public Notification of Non-Compliance – Tier 2 Bacteriological Maximum Contaminant Level Violation

1. Your Barksdale water safety is consistently monitored on a weekly basis for bacteriological contamination by Bioenvironmental Engineering and the Louisiana State Laboratory in Shreveport. This notification is to inform you that during the reporting period of September 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010, the Barksdale Air Force Base Public Water System (PWS) ID #1015022 violated the maximum contaminant level of coliform bacteria as set forth in the State and Federal Primary Drinking Water Regulations [Part XII of the Louisiana State Sanitary Code (LAC 51:XII)].
2. This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other; potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
3. Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, you would have been notified immediately.
4. You **do not** need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
5. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-(800)-426-4791.
6. Bacteria are commonly found in any water source. Chlorine is added to drinking water to kill bacteria that may form in the water. Bioenvironmental Engineering has not yet been able to pinpoint a direct cause for the elevated number of samples testing positive for coliform bacteria. We are replacing the water sampling point at which we have received multiple positive results. We are also working in conjunction with the LA State Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana State Laboratory to identify any other underlying cause. Although testing has indicated the presence of coliform bacteria, **we have found no evidence of harmful bacteria in our water distribution system.**
7. Providing the installation with clean drinking water is a coordinated effort between personnel in the 2d Civil Engineer Squadron and the 2d Medical Group. We are dedicated to providing the base populace with the highest quality drinking water. If you would like additional information or have questions regarding the quality of the drinking water, please call Bioenvironmental Engineering at (318) 456-6730.

8. *Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing by hand or mail.*

9. **This notice is being sent to you by Barksdale Air Force Base PWS ID # 1015022.  
Date distributed: 22 Oct 10**

*//SIGNED//*  
JOSEPH E. BALL, Capt, USAF, BSC  
Bioenvironmental Engineer